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Hester Prynne and Dimsdale will be remembered by the pioneers. They are better known everywhere. Recently, when I was in the American city, I took a deep interest in locating the old market-place, which was the scene of the "New England Holiness," so graphically described by Hawthorne, and then the next governor was to have his hands at the hands of the people, and Hester Prynne and his little Pearl came into the Market-place." What a living realisation of the early days of Boston the poet-novelist paints!

"The Scarlet Letter."

There is something ungracious in every interposition between a man's ideal and the reality. It was Archbishop Wren's link which demon- strated that Robinson Crusoe's rice could not grow because its germinat- ing qualities had been destroyed in the winnowing and dressing mills. I am I fear about to commit a grievous sin against the faith of every literary author whose work I believe that in "The Scarlet Letter," origi- nated in Hawthorne's finding among the dusty papers of the Custom House at Salem what may be called "a cer- tain affair of fine red cloth, much worn and faded," in the form of the capitol letter A, which bore traces of gold- brocade. There is the subtlest sugges- tion of the Hawthorne found of any thing of the kind at Salem or any- where else; indeed, there is every evi- dence to the contrary. The introduc- tory chapter which discovers to the reader the cue to the romance is simply part of the fictitious story of- fering itself. The skill of the novelist is not more exemplified than in the touches of reality with which the author invests the opening chapters. I am rather in favour of the strength and beauty of the story to give Hawthorne the full credit of it as pure romance than to relegate his imaginary dis- covery of the faded cloth and dust- specked letter to the curious collection of "the germs of books," which has re- ceived the addition of Hardy's "I've got-a-family-runt-over-at—," which is said to have originated "Tess of the D'Urbervilles."

English Market-Places.

The market-place of a town has al- ways seemed to me to be the very heart of its life and character. Per- haps it is that, and the broadest view- point of old-fashioned borough possessors of a wide and spacious market-place in which all the public events of the town seemed to take place or obtain sanction. The last of the stage-coaches charged horses at the Angel in the market-place; troops passed through, to the music of the bands; the old-fashioned borough possessed of a wide and spacious market-place; had wretches were let off in the market- place. It was also the scene of the great fairs, election addresses, procla- mations by the Queen's representa- tives, the assemblage ground of the Odd Fellows with their band and leader, and what a band the leader, and was proud in my knowl- edge.

I've heard full many a band since then and paid to get a seat; I've heard them play their loudest airs and I've heard, sadly, the music of the rapture more complete. Then when I heard the Odd Fellows' band go marching down the street, I don't know how it is with you, but I seek out in a town which I have not previously visited is its market-place. Do you know Derby, Nottingham, Yarmouth? Well, those are the kind of market-places I enjoy—squares surrounded by the chief shops of the town, and the stalls under canvas. Their contrasted individualities of produce and producers, the jolly re- faced countrymen out for the day, or business or pleasure, lounging through the canvas avenues; here and there a cheap Jack and here and there a more respectable-looking man, worth studying. Chesterfield spoils its market - place by planting its market - hall in the middle of it. Birmingham, Liverpool, Bath, Bristol, Plymouth, Swansea, I will know for their fine markets held in halls, but the market-go and move on in the old English characteristics of the open-air market.

Versatile Birmingham.

As Birmingham manufactures pretty well everything that is made under the sun by hand or machine, so is her market one of the most varied. There is nothing you cannot buy there, dead or alive, fruit, fish, vegetables, singing birds, new-fangled rubber, awais, breeches, books, toys, gunn, knives, game, beef, butter, bacon, antiques, grapes, pears, wines, bojocase, and Birmingham only know what besides, and when you have con- cluded your purchases you can sit down at a table provided with high chairs and all your food, hot or cold, that is not surpassed by the best local restaurant, and with beer and cider and other liquors, sound as the men appear to be who sit there and enjoy the good thing the gods provide. Have you seen any of the picture of The Market-Place of Verona? The Water Gallies at Liverpool? Well, that is another story that belongs to another pack- of cigarette papers.

OF INTEREST TO HOTEL VISITORS.

At Marylebone Court Mr. Curtis Bennett was appealed to for advice by a man stating at a near Port- man-square, that he expected to be delivered, and her niece handed the head waiter £10 to pay for it at its arrival. The following morning she was informed that the head waiter went out the previous night, and left the £10 with the waiter, and that the waiter had absconded with the money. She wanted to know whether the hotel proprietor was responsible.—The magistrate replied in the negative.—Applicant: I am told the head waiter is leaving the service and going away.—Mr. Bennett: You can sue him for a written receipt, but not for the money.—Mr. Bennett: No, but the head waiter parted with the money at his own risk, and you can recover from him.

MEDITERRANEAN SQUADRON.

The Admiralty have decided to still further strengthen the Mediterranean Fleet by the addition of the new battleship Formidable, which is to be commissioned at Portsmouth in a few days. The original intention was for her to be stationed at the Cape of Good Hope, taking the place of the Resolution. The Resolution is, how- ever, still to be detached from the squadron. She is to arrive at Port- mouth on the 25th inst., to be guarded here, in place of the Trafalgar.

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HOLD—See by mutual agreement.
LIMIT.—See the husband.

ROBINSON.—No. 2. Yes; but if she has no money she cannot pay.

G. LOIS.—Wait till you are sued, and then counterclaim for value of spoilt dress.

PENKLEIGH (Notting Hill).—You are charged with perjury.

W. E. BLACKBURN.—We fear you have no remedy.

FAYRENDEN.—Your wife's name? 2. Yes.

CAROL GAWTHORP.—If you leave before the 28th he can only sue you in county court.

2. Yes.

KNOXFOUL.—You are entitled to your share now.

CHATTER.—You can make your son sole trustee if you wish. The cost of Letters of Administration would not be his responsibility as long as he was carrying a will. It would be at Somerset House.

FAIRBRER.—A. The two daughters shared equally. The elder has no special rights.

RENTRAT.—You cannot sue.

SAN DIEGO.—Payable now.

TARTAR MILLAR.—No, it must be re-accepted.

M. H. C.—YOU had better search the original proceedings in Chancery.

J. H. PEARCE (Essex).—Apply for forms at once to Mr. Calverly.

E. STABLEY.—You must issue a summons in the County Court for administration of the estate.

JEDRALD.—It depends upon who paid the mortgage for the business.

CANDIDATES.—Apply to Butterworth, legal bookseller, Fleet-st., London.

ALFRED THE GREAT.—Title, &c. At once.

JOHN WILKINSON.—It depends upon how the money was left, and the terms of the will, if any.

LIVE.—You are not liable.

NANCY.—Yes. 2. Yes. 3. They so produce the draft as evidence. 4. O should give notice to the trustees to pay B's share to him.

GOODER.—I. Yes. 2. Yes.

BETTY MURPHY.—Write her him to worry. He cannot be impressed.

POSTNAVANT.—By entering into an agreement with him, it is only a civil debt, and no ground for bankruptcy.

PERLIN.—Apparently a week's notice is enough, but it depends upon the terms of the letting. 2. No.

ALEXANDER.—Six months' notice, expiring the same day as you went in.

H. WOOLETT.—You cannot insist on delivery if you owe an account.

CHARLES CALVERT (road).—No; if the other married again she has committed bigamy.

LIVERPOOL, MALPAS JACKSON, V. FRASER, BARON KATE TROTTER, TRICKS ANDERSON, GIBBALDAV, INTERSTATE, PURNISHED HOUSE, BRADLANDIA, J. B. SNIP, EXAMINER, C. L. S. NAVY CIVT, N.S. JOVES, P. S. FLAK, UNCO GRIND, DON CARLOS, FERRIS.—No.

MEDICAL.

SHOWDOWN.—Take twelve severe hospital diet meals daily. Take cold water enemas daily (6 ounces); walking exercise in the open air; have the abdominal region well massaged; eat varied diet of good quality, one glass water largely; oat coarse, brown bread, and take 1 drachm of this medicine in half a wineglassful of water each morning after breakfast: Es ammon co, 3 drachms; tinct ferri, 3 drops; mag sulph, 1 ounce; inf herb, 4 ounces; ag ammon co, 10 grains; food, 4 times daily; avoid alcohol. When the desired effect has been produced the medicine should be discontinued.

D. SLATER, I. F. F.—Wash the part but thoroughly dry first. Rub lemon juice over hair and comb rest soap; dry well. Apply each night a small quantity of this ointment: Hydrarg ammon chlor, 10 grains; liq carbonis detergens, 10 grains; castor oil, 1 oz.; stercorin purif, of each ½ drachm; lanoline (pure) and vaseline, of each ¼ ounce. Take 1 drachm of the syr ferruginus et strychnini phosphat in 3 ounces of water.

H. WILLIAMS, LAUREL LYNN.—Take 1 teaspoonful of the syr ferruginus quinquinae et strychnini phosphat in 3 ounces of water three times a day, after food, or add stimulant. Live much in the open air.

W. S. C. T. G. ADE, MEMPHRAHEND.—Take 1 ounce of this medicine in a tumblersful of water every four hours during treatment. Before rising. Mag sulph, 2 ounces; mag carb, 2 drachms; op ammon co, 6 drachms; aqu menth pip, to 8 ounces.

HOUGHTON.—Daily wash the outer ear behind with warm water; rub black points by means of a watch-key; wash with hot water, using sulphur skin soap. Take 1 ounce of this medicine in a tumblerful of hot water each afternoon, containing op ammon co, 3 drachms; mag carb, 2 drachms; liq ferri, 4 drachms; op ether oil, 4 drachms; aqu menth pip, to 8 ounces. Live much in the open air; avoid stimulants.

KNIFE.—It depends upon the exact condition.

KOD DRYE.—Its removal can only be effected by an operation.

WORK.—Remove all scales by nightly poulticing; daily apply a small quantity of this ointment: Ungt sulphidi olei ungts eucalyptii of each equal parts to 1 ounce. Give half pint of cod liver oil twice daily, mixed with creamed food; when washing use clean, tepid water and sulphur skin soap; dry well with clean soft towel. Also give half a tablespoonful of cod liver oil twice daily, mixed with creamed flannel. Live much in the open air. Cut the hair short with sharp scissors, and keep it so.

O'DONOVAN ROSNA, AGONY, INVERMINTENNIT.—Use cod liver oil twice daily, mixed with creamed food; also take 1 ounce of this mixture in a mug of milk thrice daily, a day after food: Mag sulph, 1 ounce; cod liver oil, 3 drachms; op ammon co, 3 drachms; tinct nucum, 1 drachm; op ammon co, 6 drachms; aqu menth pip, to 8 ounces. Have the region of the liver well massaged daily.

T. H. CLIFFE.—Any hospital.

DRUMMOND.—Ungt Nemo.

MISTIE.—Give rectal injections of cod liver oil medicated like milk; drink but little fluid with your meals; get daily walking exercise in the open air; avoid all stimulants and tea. Take 1 ounce of this medicine in a mug of milk after each meal: Bienneth carb, mag carb, sodi bicarb, of each 2 drachms; tinct nucum, 1 drachm; op ammon co, 6 drachms; aqu menth pip, to 8 ounces.

STRAW SHIP.—Paint the part night and morning with solution of iodine.

DOUGLAS.—Give 1 oz. of cod liver oil carefully with clean, tepid water at 100degrees Fahr.; gently dry and blow in a small quantity of powdered boracic acid. Take 1 teaspn of this mixture in a mug of milk thrice daily, a day after food: Cod liver oil, 3 drachms of cod liver oil after dinner.

A NEW READER.—Dress in flannel; live much in open air. Take a varied diet of good quality, avoiding rich meat; abstain from coffee, p.m., either solid or liquid; allow lifted labour nothing at night. Do not punish; it is worse than useless. Give 1 drachm of iron with sugar and 1 drachm of cod liver oil after dinner.

C. M. EVANS.—Noes.

AGNES MARSHALL, YODDER, GRAVEDNER.—Take 1 ounce of this medicine in a mug of milk after each meal: Potass cit, 4 drachms; petas bicarb, 2 drachms; tinct hyocyan, 1 drachm; inf barba, 10 ounces. Avoid all stimulants and strong foods; drink 1 ounce of tepid hot water each night at bed-time.

T. W. HEALE.—Daily apply some of the milky acid collodion, taking great care that the eyes do not come in contact with it; protect eye lid dried, hard crust, and collect pus until cured. Apply the collodion by means of a camel-hair brush.

THE DOCTOR.—Singland, some bracing clothing if fit Harrogate.

OLD RUBBERCREEP.—It would produce tetanus and is a dangerous practical joke.

TRAIL.—On the contrary, it does help you.

VIAL.—On the contrary, it does very good work.

LAKE KEATS.—Live much in the open air; have the painful part well massaged daily with liniment composed of equal parts of turpentine and olive oil; Lin terribitis 1 ounce; lin opoi, of each equal parts. Take 1 tabspoonful of this medicine in a claret-glass full of water.

C.—Ounce each; 6 drachms; potash bicarb., 1 ounce; liq. Fowler's, 1 drachm; decoct. marrow, to 20 ounces; avoid all stimulants. Dress lightly.

MISS A. EVANS, BALLY LUN.—Observe the utmost cleanliness by irrigation. Take a cold water enema daily. Give two compound sulphate lozenges night and morning, as may be necessary; will wash the part daily with clean tepid water and coal tar soap; return all discharges promptly dry well, and apply a small quantity of the ointmentaseline. Dress in flannel, keep the extremities warm and dry; avoid all highly-seasoned foods and stimulants.

BRENNY.—L. No. 2. No.

YANO SEI.—Sp camph and oil of eucalyptus, of each equal parts; a small quantity applied to the throat.

LANNON.—Have nothing to do with it.

IKEE.—It would do harm.

ARTHUR J. KING.—Take 1 teaspoonful of this mixture when the patient vomits: Bromoform, 5 grains; op. drachma; ery papav alb at 5 grains; rhodoo, of each 4 ounce; sp ether att, 2 drachmas; water, to 4 ounces.

R. RAY.—You quite cannot be answered without the column; it would take up too much space.

ANNE MUNRO, SPOONER, SHEAFFE, NICHOLSON, CORNIE, MILLAR, GIBSON, AND H. G. COOPER.—See **K. BULLEN**.—Examination necessary before advice can be given.

A. J. K. SUITE, A. B. C. INQUIRERS.—ANTONIO, TAVOLARA, L. V. Y.—On receipt of your letter refers to correspondents, re-state your case, giving your correct name and address, distinctly written, in full.

HOUSEHOLD.

PAST.—Make a paste composed of equal parts of quinine, caustic, petash, and soft soap, using only enough water to keep the paste thick; lay this on with a brush, and let it remain until you feel smarting; then rub off a fresh mixture of the same until the stain disappears. Wash thoroughly with warm water; then repolish with oxide of tin, using a weak solution.

MICAWBER.—Impossible for us to decide the "cause," not knowing whether the house is damp or dry, etc., etc. You might try rubbing it over very lightly with a little turpentine oil mixed with the milk, or else with a soft cloth dipped in milk, polishing off each part so treated by rubbing it perfectly dry before you pass on to the next part.

E. E.—We refer you to issue of Sept. 1.

MRS. K.—Do not know of any by the name you give, but this may perhaps answer your purpose: Curdle some skimmed milk, and add a few drops of lemon juice, poured quickly, mix well to form it into a paste.

AMERICANS.—Unfortunately it is rather difficult to crack from the frequent doubling up of the letters, but we have been able to find it lasts better by occasionally rubbing it over with a little new milk, others prefer to eat too heavily laden oily cloth, but much depends upon the nature of the stain.

E. B.—We have no space to enter into geographical questions in our "Household" column.

E. E.—We can only refer you to our recipe for elderlyberry wine given in issue of Aug. 11.

VINO.—See issue of Aug. 19 for damson wine.

FERNET-BR.—You say they are white, and yet sold mahogany. Have they been adulterated?

J. B.—Young spinach or beet leaves will make it; pound either sort, but not mixed, and then press out the juice into a bowl, and strain through a fine muslin, adding a glass of warm water, not on the fire, and simmer gently for a few minutes to remove the raw taste; mix it with finely-sifted sugar when you are going to use it.

WHITE-WASHING CEILINGS.—In our recipe for making up the distemper last week through a slip of the pen we gave two pounds of Paris white, meaning one pound of each, but the quantity for six balls of the best paris white. We usually give two pounds of size to 12 balls of paris white. We take this opportunity to explain that the quantity of size used must be in proportion to the quantity is needed to give the proper cohesion to the white-wash, and on such occasions one and a half pounds would probably be more than need to get thirty balls of paris white.

ALICE.—Many thanks.

ALICE.—We are quite full.

A. B.—The wise you ask for was given in Jack Allround's column on May 5. We cannot give any more.

BETA.—You probably mean some preparation of destreine. For the mucilage take of destreine two parts, acetic acid one part, water ten parts, mix, and shake in a corked bottle, shake together, and dissolve by standing the bottle in a hot water bath, then add one part alcohol, shake together, and it is ready for use.

CHILDREN.—We do not gather from your letter what sort of coat you mean, but perhaps the point for "Cabanian's Water-proof," by "Joel." See advertisement.

ST. LEONARD'S-ON-SEA.—Straw polders borax in their haunts abundantly and pervasively, or see our advertising columns.

GARDENING.

MADON PARE.—Your best course will be to call your neighbor's attention to his tree, and if he refuses to cut it down, to sue him for the sake of peace. If he refuses to move in the matter you may legally have the branches which overhang your garden cut down, but not the trunk of the tree. Put the boughs over the fence when cut off on your neighbor's ground.

C. M. F.—We should not advise you to use the large dressing of lime, but a poisonous dressing of lime will destroy funguses. The enclosed is the true shamrock.

ST. JOHN.—Name of shrub, Arthes fontes.

ALANY.—The large leaved tree is magnolia, the small one appears to be *Ardisia ciliatissima*.

HOWARD SMITH.—Some irregularity of watering is a common cause of leaves falling from the plant, but if the soil is kept moist, small and weak for a plant in an eight inch pot. Perhaps a little stimulant would help it. If pot-bound, try a little artificial manure for plants, and if it does not succeed on account to the gallon of water.

PATNEY.—It is too late to divide adipsistrum now. Wait till Spring, but you might use it now.

BACCO.—By blight we suppose you mean mildew. When grapes are badly attacked by the vine mildew no time should be lost in cutting them away, and the vines should be removed, and may be obtained from most of the horticultural sundries dealers or you might attack it with dry sulphur, and after the mildew has destroyed, then the sulphur cure will destroy the eggs of the insect causing the mildew on grapes under glass is dryness at the root, and a stuff condition of the atmosphere from deficient ventilation. This it ever and anon attacks, and it is almost impossible unless to combat disease whilst the cause is still in operation.

MYSTERY (Constant Reader).—It is much more difficult to raise plants from leaves than flowers. With a fully expanded flower, by dissecting it we find the clam and order to which it belongs and the rest is plain sailing to the grower. But if you have a leafy branch, climate influence their size and shape. The leaf you need has many characteristics of a hawthorn, but it was so dried up it crumpled up, and I am unable to tell you whether it is a common dock runty.

A. F. SEIBELT.—See "Gardens" column near week.

HOMAS MOORE.—"Cuttings" of india rubber are difficult to strike without bottom heat. But you may layer the shoots like you would layer carnations by cutting through a joint of the stem, and inserting a piece of straw. If the moss is kept damp roots will form in the moss, and the branches may then be taken off and potted.

JOHN.—If you wish cuttings will strike during the autumn and winter if inserted in sandy soil now, and kept moist. Make a new bed for Lily of the Valley in February. It will be ready to transplant in March, and through the winter if kept dry and safe from frost.

GARDENING.—When bouvardias are growing in pots, and the plants are getting old, and in winter, but planted out as you propose, they will probably keep on growing, and you may train them as you propose, though there are no chibbers. The temperature will be fatal to them. Leaf-mould, or peat, or manure will suit them, and there is no reason why they should not succeed. Take rose cuttings now. See Garden column this week.

JOHN.—If there has not been a slight moisture the ground thoroughly, the turf of your lawn may be taken up, the ground pressed level, and the turf laid as you would expect to be. You may trap for moles.

ANXIOUS ONE.—Vigorous growing roses will be killed by the frost.

that Nell will probably grow stronger and more healthy, and will be able to make good growth. If you strike the root in pots they will strike better near the sides of the pots.

W. (Kensington).—When indur rubbers are reported late in the season there is always the danger of over-watering and making the soil sour before they enter it. This has probably been the case with yours. There is still time to do you now. Only be careful in the watering. It is surprising what a little water will suffice after a plant has been reported.

THE RATS.—Though it is late, if you have an stocks of rabbit one-beds may be inserted now. It is too late for grafting; better wait till February or March.

C. F. A.—It is rather early for moving fruit trees and bushes, but, if you are changing your residence you may risk it, doing the work carefully.

Mrs. P. (Eassie).—If kept rather dry at the roots, the plants may be kept in a spare room during winter.

NATURAL HISTORY.

PURCHALL.—Sprinkle it with snuff and pour Parrish's Chemical Food in its drinking water.

MATPOLE.—Bolled maida and rice; canary hemp, and other seeds; sop moistened with water and kneaded with biscuits and fruit. Leave its tongue alone.

WOMAN SPINX.—It is apparently deformed and cannot be rectified. We should say that the best thing to do would be to fatten it till it kills it.

FRED PARKER.—We should advise you to go to the Dogs' Home at Battersea, where you could probably get what you want. We should advise you to—**SPRAY** them with Alum water, and put some Parrish's Chemical Food in their drinking water.

THE RAT.—It is not so injurious.

TARTAR.—When suffering from these pains give it a dose of castor oil, in which has been mixed a little brandy.

HOSPITAL.—From all appearances there is nothing to get what you want. It is impossible to say whether the sand, the sea, or the water is responsible.

SHREKHO.—If you cannot get flies, feed on a little manure. It must be kept in a very warm place.

GOLDSPR.—Keep them in a large glass bowl; change the water frequently; feed with a little water and a little of the vermifuge. Grow a plant in the bowl, and put in a bushy net.

ANGLING.

IRWICH.—We can give no definite information as to the claimant's title or fishing rights. The matter is very complicated, but we believe most of the waters should be free.

J. A.—Worms are about the best bait for roach in thick water, and bream will always take them.

DRESS.

MADRID.—It is really a matter of taste as to what colour a dress should be worn by a best man at a wedding, as white or grey can be worn. While, however, is, in our opinion, the most suitable.

SPORT.

A. BROWN.—140 yards.

PUTTER.—Keenly right. In dead heats you must put the two 'takes together and the 60th—then you will find the question is very close, as Mr. Gai, you must lose.

ALDS.—Aids is the Queen Adelaide Aldi Satyr, the Satirical poet; the others I do not know. They will win in turn, but are not especially good names. The question is very well and backed, has a big Omelette chance, especially if the ground is holding; but I do not like Australian Star. For the 60th, the best place for the Omelette.

W. MELLON.—Yes, Robins ran—unplaced.

W. ALFORD.—Being one of the small bus meetings the date is not yet fixed.

THE RATS.—No records of Larry Lynn's meetings are kept. Buy a Racecourse Guide for all required particulars—price 6d.—and published by Messrs. Tindall, High-st., Strand.

THE JACKY.—Wych-st., Strand.

ALFORD.—Very likely, in a friendly game but it would be too long a remedy to set for certain.

THE RATS.—Station House. We shall exclude the advertisement in future, unless satisfactory reason is forthcoming.

MORLEY.—Entirely unknown to us, and we have no dealings. In these cases of course invariably comes the victim's "comer or later."

O'DONOVAN ROSSA.—Yes, Robins ran—unplaced.

HOGS OF THE LION.—We are not general financial advisers, and know nothing of the various matters and firms named. You are very lucky to get any money back under the circumstances, and we should strongly advise you to leave off.

MISFAN.—Saturday had very "ancient," and always was a rank day. Last year's "lost" them all. Brimsa very little better. See remarks in this issue.

RESPONSIBLE.—Not yet fixed; expected at 1.30.

MISCELLANEOUS.

O. P. O.—Apply to the Patent Office.

ROBOTS.—There are more acres in the county of Yorkshire than letters in the Bible.

O. T. BASTED.—Take the book to a dealer.

CONSOLS.—We could not give an opinion without having more of your question.

F. O. AMOS.—Yes, certainly. Advertise in this paper.

W. A. J. D.—Write to the Secretary, London Bazaar.

THE T. J. D.—We have no belief in such lotteries, and we cannot advise you to take tickets there.

ANALYST B. M.—Write offering your services to the shipping line concerned.

O. H.—Slight advance on the face value. You must find your own market.

KONAK.—I. All right, in two words. Omelette.

PROF.—Apply to Intelligence Department of the War Office.

ARTILLERY.—Write to the War Office.

THE T. J. D.—Write offering your services to the shipping line concerned.

VERY LOW.—Your only chance is to get typewritten, and send it round to managers. But we are not sanguine of your success.

THE T. J. D.—Consult files of newspapers at the British Museum.

ONE PENNILE.—I. We know nothing of the bank you mention. 2. That entirely depends on the nature of the business you want.

PEZZING.—Write to Messrs. Spinks, of Piccadilly. They will doubtless afford you the information you seek.

THE T. J. D.—Write offering your services to the shipping line concerned.

DURHAM CASTLE.—Rebuilt in 1863 or 1864.

O. HILL.—Not to our knowledge.

ANXIOUS.—You are right. Life out there is not free of ices. Your friend must be very careful.

A. P. C.—There is no such practice. The time of the Coronation merely depends on the Sovereign's convenience.

OLIVER TURNER.—Consult Stationers' Hall. Prices would vary with different publishers.

CLARENCE TURNER.—Consult a picture-dealer.

TOUCHSTONE.—The expense very greatly exceeds the value of the stone. Go to the West-end music-hall, who will supply all particulars.

J. COLLING.—Cucumber is a fruit; marrow is a vegetable.

THE T. J. D.—Write offering your services to the shipping line concerned.

THE T. J. D.—Write offering your services to the shipping line concerned.

JUDGING.—We should doubt very much whether you would be able to find such a subject.

BUTTERCUP.—When authorised they are perfectly safe.

LOST AND FOUND.

MISSING.

Watts, Isaac.—Last heard of at Pecham 10 years ago, was manager of Lloyd's Weekly newspaper for many years. Niece Mary Wilkins, 10, St. George's, address: Mary Millicent Lewis, 1, Gloster House, Gurnsey-st., Kent-rd.

Wilks, Edmund John.—Some years ago he was a member of the "Stationers' Hall." Mother Inquiring: Address: Mrs. Hughes, Kent-rd., Albert, near Birmingham.

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WOMAN: THE SPHINX.

By FERGUS HUME.

Author of "THE MYSTERY OF A MARIONETTE," "A TRAITOR IN LONDON," &c.

CHAPTER XXII.

THE GAY CITY.

Every city has its prototype in a woman.

Rome, discovered as she is, is still a queen ruling through the magic influence of a great past.

Vienna, the grand lady, haughty and aristocratic, Madrid, an ancient dowager devoted to the traditional ceremonies of a bygone age.

London may be compared to a busy housewife, caring less for grace than for gain; while Paris is the daughter of joy, the hostess of nations, charming, the edible, dangerous.

Her power lies in the attractions she can offer, and her doors stand open night and day to enslave the unwary.

Bright, sparkling, alluring, like Circe, she whets the passions of men into beasts, into things lower than the beasts.

She is a modern Babylon, making drunk the nations by giving them drink from the golden cup of her iniquity.

Paris—a name of five letters—spells pleasure, ruin, and death.

On leaving smoky, homely, matter-of-fact London, Anthony was dull and dispirited.

Not even the amusing conversation of Major Larry could please him, but on crossing the Channel his spirits began to rise.

He roared towards Paris, he became gay and more careless.

His wrinkles vanished, his eyes brightened, his "spirits" lorded it lightly on his throne, and on descending at the Gare du Nord, he was quite in the mood to enjoy the gay city.

Having collected their baggage he and Larry drove to the Hotel Valois, a smart but quiet caravanerie in the Rue de Roche, which lies to the left of the Champs Elysees.

Swallow did not wish to sleep in one of the fashionable hotels, as the Major was not an over-desirable person to introduce to his friends.

He therefore took up his quarters in that presided over by a judicious native of Switzerland, who kept a good table, and was not in the habit of inquiring whether his guests went or what they did.

The Hotel Valois was Liberty Hall; and, therefore, suited Swallow, seeing that he was about to mingle in a crowd of disreputable and dissolute persons.

So here, in "Le Paris with money and youth and no conscience, in there any particular wickedness with which you'd like to begin?"

"I did not come here to be picked Major, but to see Lais."

"You would touch Lais and not be defiled? And what is it you want with Lais? No good, I'll be bound."

"No bad at all events. I wish to study her; to find out what she is."

"Is that it? Sure I could have told you that name in London. What is the name of the girl who is in Paris and they tell you, 'She's poison in a cup of gold, that's what she is.'"

"You are quite peevish, Major."

"Began it's polite language. I'm using so as not to shock you, Swallow. Lais is as bad as the other is good; she has no more morals than a gun, and ruins all those she gets into her clutches."

"She has not ruined you, at all events."

"Oh, faith, eagles don't fight wid worms, nor I've no money, no position, no anything to ruin in Paris, and they tell you, 'She's poison in a cup of gold, that's what she is.'"

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continuously assailed, battled as continuously, and up to the present had withstood the danger. The second yielded to her instincts, only retired when a natural revulsion led her to contemplate her wicked life with the horror it deserved.

Now beginning to grasp the reason of Agnes in sending him to Paris. Here he would see a degraded copy of herself; he would behold in the flesh the kind of creature she might become, did her courage fail her for one moment.

Much as he scouted the idea that he would ever be a Parisian, Agnes, the young man knew very well that hereafter he would always associate her with Lais. Twins physically, they were also twins mentally, and placed in the same circumstances would develop the same feelings.

Lais in Apple Tree Town might appear as good and holy as Agnes; Agnes in Paris, might break beyond bounds and become a Queen of Sin like Lais. Environment was everything, and it was no doubt for this reason that Agnes remained in country seclusion or haunted the vineyards of the East End where vice repelled rather than allured.

For the moment Swallow was inclined to give up the idea of seeing the other swifter self of the woman he loved, but his honesty was so strong that he had not the courage to do this at this critical moment he hesitated and was lost.

It was in the small hours of the morning that he entered the Café de la Tour, a smart and fashionable establishment with his friend, Larry.

Bright as the sun was shining through the glass of light, by the profusion of colour, by the noise of a band, and the general air of violent excitement which pervaded the place. All was dancing, brilliant, evil; it was the champagne of the infernal regions; the wine of the infernal regions; the concentrated essence of viciousness was here; and hardened as Swallow was to iniquity, he shuddered as he stepped over the fatal threshold.

Over the lintel of the door, a sign in English and French, written in the mind when walking through the crowded streets of a great city. Every human being has nose, ears, eyes, and mouth; yet, although all faces are constructed upon the same plan, how rarely it is that one resembles another.

Agnes, with her red hair in smooth shining bands; she arrayed herself in a simple, non-like costume, and habitually moved with her eyes cast down, and her face set in a stern, unyielding line.

The woman who walked up the centre of the café nodding and laughing as she was greeted right and left, was splendidly dressed in pale green silk, covered with tulle, and glittering with diamonds, round her slender neck was a broad collar of six rows of pearls, and in her hair shone arrows of gold tipped with gems.

Even her bare arms were heavily with bracelets, and as she moved, the light flashed from the diamonds, round her slender neck was a broad collar of six rows of pearls, and in her hair shone arrows of gold tipped with gems.

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OUR OMNIBUS. THE CONDUCTOR.

The fair and ancient city of Winchester is celebrating with legitimate enthusiasm the "millenary" of King Alfred. I don't know if the shade of "England's Darling" reads his "People" (he was great on reading).



A NEW VERSION OF KING ALFRED AND THE BURNING CAR.

you know) with the regularity I could desire; but if he does he should long ago have ceased to wonder at the changes which have come over this country in the past thousand years. While, however, we meditate are justly proud of our marvellous edifice of progress, let us remember, in a spirit of humility, that its strong foundations were laid, ages ago, by our ancestors, of whom, assuredly, none was more good and great than King Alfred. Wherefore, "Let us now praise famous men and our fathers who begat us."

On Tuesday last the troops of the allied Powers finally evacuated Peking, and the Chinese capital was restored to its natural owners. That it is well that we should be out of Peking, I take it, is a proposition which nobody outside Bedlam would venture to dispute; but it is a pity that the ceremony of restoring the city to the Chinese should have been carried out in such a way as to make the Chinese people believe that the whole thing has been done by command of the Emperor, and not in spite of him. There is something, to my mind, highly exasperating about the spectacle of Prince Ching warily protecting the Palace, and promising to bring their good conduct to the notice of the Emperor. Confound Ching's Celestial impudence!

After the Fifteenth, we were told, all sorts of things were going to happen in South Africa, that day being appointed for carrying into effect the terms of Lord Kitchener's last proclamation. Well, the Fifteenth has come and gone, and the enemy are more active than ever. I am neither surprised nor disappointed at that. We have issued too many proclamations, we have threatened too often, and we have never punished them enough. What we have just got to do now is not to threaten but to threaten them, to treat them to less menace, and more mailed fist. Just look at the figures of Lord Kitchener's last despatch. In seven weeks, only 848 Boers have surrendered, whereas 2,250 have been captured, 316 killed, and 160 wounded. That shows the difference between the value of talk and of action.

Talking of war and the way the British Army makes it, we all remember the extraordinary one which German military critics have adopted in speaking of the South African campaign. According to these extraordinarily wise warriors the British officer, from Lord Roberts downwards, is a mere nincompoop, totally incompetent to solve the problems of modern scientific warfare. It is therefore, with considerable amusement that I learn that, in the course of the German manoeuvres at Dantzig, the defending army has been completely wiped out by the invaders, having tumbled into a trap in a way which resulted in its absolute annihilation according to the rules of the game. The Kaiser is said to have been furious, and to have given his Generals a piece of his Imperial and imperious mind. I hope they enjoyed it. It must have been what our mutual friends, the French, call a bad quarter of an hour.

Half a dozen noble ladies have made an earnest appeal on behalf of the South African Field Force Fund, to provide Christmas presents for our gallant and sorely-trying troops. "A pipe and tobacco, a pair of socks or handkerchiefs, a small plum-pudding, a Christmas-card and a small housewife" these are to be the contents of Tommy's Christmas parcel, and highly acceptable they should be, though whether the "small housewife" will be a complete substitute for the "little things he leaves behind him" at home is another matter. Well, ladies and gentlemen, here is your chance, and you may think it from me that, if you do just a little something, however little it may be, to make Christmas happy for the man who is trying to mop up your country's mess on theveldt, your own Christmas will be the happier. The Countess of Derby, Knowlesy, Prescott, will be glad to hear from you.

The Registrar General's statistics show that nine people died of small-pox in London last week as against seven in each of the two preceding weeks. The disease has appeared in Lisson Grove, and large numbers of children living thereabouts attend the Board School in the immediate neighbourhood, any number of whom may have already been infected. Nevertheless, I believe it is a fact that, at the time at which I am writing, (toned) at the school, I am reluctant to believe it—the Board are exhibiting either an indifference to their responsibilities or a dread of the anti-vaccination cranks which is extremely discreditable.

WILL WORKMAN.

I am sure every working man and all true friends of his are sorry to hear of what has taken place at Grimsby. After 12 weeks of great distress, privation, and, in some cases, starvation, borne with the greatest patience, the Grimsby fishermen broke out into rioting and smashed the offices of the Fishermen's Federation, as well as the secretary's house. Of course, this was a great mistake, although it is easy enough for people who have never felt the pinch to talk about what men should do and what they should not do under certain circumstances.

On Tuesday, the day before the riot, the men had sent a letter to the owners to say that they were willing to return to work on the employers' terms, providing that the whole question could be submitted to an arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade. Nothing could have been fairer than this. Whether or not the masters would have agreed to it we don't know, but we must not forget that up to now whenever arbitration was suggested they have absolutely refused it.

While the men were waiting outside the Federation offices on Wednesday for an answer to their letter, they were told that "outside labour" was being imported into the docks to get the ships to sea. If this was true, men not belonging to the union, and willing to work for less wages than its members, were being smuggled in to deprive the regular workers of their living. But even then we are told that there was not the slightest idea of violence until one of the Federation officers came outside and laughed at the men at the hungry and anxious crowd.

Then the stone-throwing began. We know it was the wrong thing to do, but how many of us would not have done it? For three months had seen poverty and misery creep over their wives and children worked up to desperation by the news that their places were being taken from them. Can we wonder that they broke out into violence when they saw the ships being loaded with outside labour?

But this is what I want all those who do me the honour to read my little article not only to consider but to act upon. There are to-day in Grimsby at least 20,000 men, women, and children without the common necessities of life, many of them actually starving. The town is doing its best to meet the emergency, but the job isn't for the faint of heart. The Rev. Richard Meddings, vicar of St. Andrew's, Great Grimsby, and head of the Waterside Mission, asks for outside help. Don't let him ask in vain. You can either send it on direct to him, or else to the "Grimsby Famine Relief Fund," Small-pox, E.C. Don't be afraid to send because you can only send a little. If it is only sixpence it will help, and be acknowledged in the paper.

I cannot help smiling when I see once more that the anti-vaccinationists have broken out in Marylebone, St. Pancras, and one or two other places in London, and the anti-vaccinationists are off on the run to get vaccinated. I see in one case a man who is well known at Hyde Park meetings, as a strong opponent of Dr. Jenner's discovery, has had himself and family vaccinated when two of his children were attacked. These anti-vaccinationists remind one of infidels and atheists, who, so long as they are well and healthy, are never tired of spouting their unbelief; but let them get laid up, even only with a bad cold, and they are as quick as mice. Their courage (like Bob Acres') "comes out of their finger-ends."

PIPER PAN.

In a week or two the autumn musical season will be in full swing. Before the promenade concerts terminate at Queen's Hall, the Saturday afternoon symphony concerts will have commenced, and performances by M. Ysaie, Signor Busoni, Herr Backhaus, and others. The Popular Concerts will commence at St. James's Hall on Oct. 26, though not under the direction of Mr. Arthur Chappell, who has retired. There will be three Richter concerts at St. James's Hall, and the usual series of ballad concerts there and at Queen's Hall before Christmas. On Oct. 4 the famous Sousa band opens at the Albert Hall, where the Royal Choral Society's performances will begin at the end of the month. At St. James's Hall on Nov. 10 Kubik will be given by Herr Kubik prior to his departure for America.

If precedent is following some special music will certainly be written for the Coronation next year. It is supposed that the Coronation anthem will be composed by Dr. Cresswell, and a suggestion has also been made that the "Te Deum," written by the late Sir Arthur Sullivan for the thanksgiving service to be held in St. Paul's on the proclamation of peace in South Africa, might be used. Another musical question mooted in reference to the Coronation is whether a "composer to the Court" should not be appointed to do for music what the Poet Laureate does for verse. Of course, there is the Master of Music to the Court, the appointment being held by Sir Walter Parratt, but he does little more than conduct the King's private and State bands.

The Gloucester Musical Festival was brought to a close with a splendid rendering of the "Messiah," although the rendering of Sir Hubert Parry's "Job" on the previous day is considered to have been the finest performance of the week's festival of music. Both artistic and financial success have been won at Gloucester this year. One thousand more tickets were sold than at the last festival, and £450 has been collected for the Diocesan Clergy Charity. There was an unusually large congregation present when "Emmeline," the new work of Mr. Herbert Brewer, the grand young organist and conductor of the festival, was produced. Over 1,000 people paid a shilling each willingly to sit behind the organ screen, where they could see nothing, although fortunately able to hear well.

According to present arrangements, Mr. Graus's opera company will take part in a gala representation to be

given before the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York at Toronto, and afterwards proceed on a tour through Canada and the United States. The troupe will then return to New York, where the regular season will begin at Christmas. Mr. Isidore de Lara's "Messaline" will be performed during the winter, besides M. Paderewski's "Maurice," Madame Calvé heads the list of prima donnas, and M. Edouard de Reszke is also with Mr. Graus, but M. Jean de Reszke will not visit America this year.

It is reported that while recently staying at Prague, Herr Kubik was visited at his hotel by his grandfather, an old man between 80 and 90, who had travelled many weary miles on foot to take "dear little Jan" some fruit, eggs, and butter. The veteran relative of the famous young violinist had carried the victuals all the way wrapped up in a bandana handkerchief.

Sir Hubert Parry has met with a cycling accident at Gloucester while trying to save from danger a lady riding in front of him. The eminent musician injured his temple and was for some time unconscious, but is now progressing favourably.

I hear that the new opera by Mr. Edward German, which is eventually to succeed "The Emerald Isle" at the Savoy Theatre, is to be entitled "Merrie England." Mr. German has already commenced his work.

OLD IZAAK.

Thames anglers have fared badly of late, the river being out of order for want of rain, a state of things which has prevailed almost everywhere. This drawback is apparently at an end, for the Thames Valley was largely favoured by the rain of Tuesday last, when the average fall for the season must have been about made up. Better sport should now be obtained.

The fish taken during the past week were more noteworthy for numbers than for size. Small pike are reported from Twickenham and Teddington, in addition to roach, dace, and bream; roach and dace have been landed at Hampton, and a few of the latter. The tidal water in the Teddington district may now be relied upon for sport, and it is very probable that anglers fishing even much lower down (on a suitable tide) would have no reason to regret the weather.

Little noteworthy reaches me from the Lee, the upper stretches of which, in the early part of the week, were very clear and bright. The picturesque little Stort seems to have fished better, and both will be greatly improved. The Stort, the Cam, the Great Ouse, and other rivers, must also largely benefit, and at St. Ives and St. Neots the Huntingdon Anglers will doubtless enjoy sport.

Some good roach have been taken from the Canterbury Stour at Grove Ferry, Mr. L. D. Hyland having a nice basket, several of his fish scaling over 1lb. each, and the heaviest weighed 1lb. 9oz. On Sunday last a bleak, cold and prevailed there nearly the whole day, sending the fish off feed, much to the disappointment of anglers. The London Anglers had had much to turn with heavy tasks, such as they have almost got accustomed to in the locality.

Shakespeare's Avon, largely patronised by anglers in the Midlands, has fished well. A fine pike, of fully 13lb., was recently caught near Hampton Lucy, and a few of the best taken, comprising 12 fish, weighing 40lb. in all, is also reported. A movement is afoot to present Mr. Charles White with some tangible token of the respect in which he is universally held, and in recognition of the long and invaluable service he has rendered as secretary to the Birmingham and District Association, a post of honour from which he has just retired. That it will be a spontaneous and well-deserved offering goes without saying.

The South London anglers open their series of winter visits on Thursday next, Sept. 26, with a concert at the headquarters of the Oglender Piscatorial Society, Oglender-nd, Ryelane, Peckham, S.E., when a great musical treat is promised. Mr. W. S. Cartwright, their popular hon. sec., has a concert in the evening, and all "brothers of the angle" and the gathering is sure to be a large one.

High tides and dry weather have interfered much with fishing in some of the Norfolk rivers, and the sea anglers, for the time being, have had the best of it. There is good sea fishing now all along the east coast, and at Felixstowe, last week, quite an array of rods were to be seen, and small fish were frequently captured. A porpoise was reported to have been seen at a great distance, and a big fish did not reward the anglers they had at least a bracing and enjoyable time. High tides occur again at the week end, after the full moon.

It is extremely gratifying to find the Central and the Anglers' Association equally agreed in support of the movement in defence of the freedom of fishing in the Thames at Maidenhead, and it is certain the claim of Sir Roger Palmer to the stretch of the river at Ray Mill will be vigorously contested. Mr. Cecil Lumley, who has been in defence in hand, attended, by invitation, at the Anglers' Association meeting (over which Mr. W. H. Beckett presided), on Monday last, when a resolution pledging its support was unanimously carried, and £20 voted to the defence fund. There was an exceptionally large attendance, and much interest was evoked.

Thanks to the Lambeth Water Works Company, their large reservoir at East Molesey was netted last week by the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and not less than two tons of fish placed in neighbouring parts of the river in consequence. Among them were pike up to 9lb. each, a bream of over 6lb. each, an enormous number of roach (nearly all sizeable), and a quantity of small perch, white bream, bream, one of the oldest of Thames fishermen, who has assisted at many similar nettings, affirms that he has never before seen so many fish landed, for at every haul the nets were full. There was little time for notification, and Mr. W. H. Beckett, hon. sec., serves to be congratulated upon the arrangements so well and quickly made.

The work was entirely carried out under the supervision of the Thames Angling Preservation Society's officers. Mr. V. M. H. was netted last week by the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and not less than two tons of fish placed in neighbouring parts of the river in consequence. Among them were pike up to 9lb. each, a bream of over 6lb. each, an enormous number of roach (nearly all sizeable), and a quantity of small perch, white bream, bream, one of the oldest of Thames fishermen, who has assisted at many similar nettings, affirms that he has never before seen so many fish landed, for at every haul the nets were full. There was little time for notification, and Mr. W. H. Beckett, hon. sec., serves to be congratulated upon the arrangements so well and quickly made.

Bryan, of Chertsey, G. Wright, of Shepperton, J. Fiddell, of Sunbury, and W. Douglas (late head keeper), also rendered efficient aid. Great assistance was very kindly given by Mr. Doornik, Jan., son of the gentleman who the society thank of anglers fishing that part of the river are due. There are no riparian claims at all in the 17 miles of river under the society's protection, and the fishing is entirely free throughout. The society depends entirely upon voluntary contributions for its funds, of which it gets a little and every penny it receives is expended upon the preservation and restocking of the river.

The United Brothers, of Dofford, are to the front again. They have previously voted £1 to the Andrews' Defence Fund, and are regular upholders of Thames preservation. They have now two pike-draw matches to fish, one with the Greenwich Anglers at Pangbourne, on Oct. 20, and another with the Junior Pines at Tilehurst, on Nov. 2, each of which is a matter of life and death. A lot of mutton supper only is at stake, but a challenge shield will be there if the first match is won. Mr. W. J. Wade (Central Association) has undertaken to be umpire in the case.

The Beaufort Angling Association, of Bristol, held their annual contest in the Avon at Bathampton, last week. Messrs. F. Cook, T. Parkyn, and J. Miles were the first three prize-winners, and Mr. R. D. Frost kindly officiated as umpire. The prizes were presented at the evening at the Beaufort Arms, Barton Hill, where an enjoyable evening was afterwards spent.

At the time of writing I hear that bream are still on the Cambridge and Ely Society's waters, and the roach have begun to feed well. Big bags of bream and roach have been taken during the last few days.

BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

I have often had occasion to record my thanks to Mr. W. Aldridge, of Brighton, for reporting to me occurrences of rare animals in England and I am again indebted to him for the following note:—"This morning, through the kindness of Messrs. Larkin, I saw a fine specimen of the ophar or king-fish—the most gorgeous of the British fishes. It was a male, about 15lb., about 35lb., heavier than the one I wrote you about a few weeks ago, and to which you called attention in 'The People.' This species is rarely met with on our coasts, and though I have studied and watched every opportunity to become acquainted with uncommon fishes, these are only two specimens of the ophar that I have ever seen. The fish is excellent, and much appreciated by the people of Norway, who consider it equal to salmon."

It will be remembered that some weeks ago I gave an account (sent me by correspondent of Stamford Hill) of a robin's nest built in a man's coat at Worthing. Through the kindness of another correspondent, I am now enabled to give a figure of the nest taken from a photograph which has been sent to me along with the following note:—"Four correspondents of Stamford Hill, quoted in your issue of Sept. 1, is not altogether accurate as regards the robin's nest at Worthing."



ROBIN'S NEST IN MAN'S COAT.

The facts are as follows:—In the early part of the month of June, Bushy's vine-house had occasion to burn his overcoat going to work one morning, and placed it over the wires in the vine house, and it remained in this position for some days, when one of the men working in the house noticed that a pair of robins were building their nest in it. The man who had the overcoat in his charge, disturbed, and they duly laid their eggs and continued in undisputed possession of the coat until their young were able to fly. The photograph shows the nest two or three days before the young birds left it.

The additions to the Zoological Society's menagerie during the week ending Sept. 17, include two rollers, six Brazilian tortoises, a mountain witch ground-dove, two crested pigeons, a Chama baboon, two lappings, two starred tortoises, three Ceylonese tortoises, a Burmese turtle, five Bengal monitors, six spiny-tailed monitors, six chameleons, a Macaque monkey, a pinto, an African civet cat, three leopard cubs, eleven tenrecs, a white-crowned mangabey, a pigmy marmoset, two black tangers, a Rhesus monkey, a spotted salamander, a small Indian agouti, a yellow-fronted amazon, a red-vented parrot, 20 rhomb-marked snakes, 22 crossed snakes, 17 rufous snakes, seven rough-skinned snakes, three infernal snakes, a lined snake, an aurore snake, an Oldham's snake, a crab-eating opossum, a collared peccary, two ring-tailed coatis, two punctate agoutis, and a yellow sparrow.

From the foregoing list it will be seen that 11 specimens of the tenrec have been received at the Zoo. This animal, until recently, was quite unknown in England in a living state, but during the last two years through the exertions of the Hon. Walter Rothschild, many examples have been brought to this country, and have proved to be of great interest to those who have been fortunate enough to see them. The tenrec belongs to the same order, and is like the hedgehog, and is like what one would imagine that animal to be if denuded of its spines. It is clothed with a coat of spines, bristles, and hairs, the first forming a sort of collar. In colour it is yellowish-brown, it is tailless, and measures about 16in. in length.

Madagascar is the home of the tenrec, and here, on the scrub-covered slopes of the mountains, it is a common animal, but on account of its nocturnal habits, and also owing to the infrequent visits paid to its haunts by the sportsmen, it is not often met with, and consequently it is known about it. Its food consists of

insects and earthworms, which it digs up with its long, flexible nose, well adapted for procuring. In the cold weather it creeps away into deep burrows, and hibernates, and before doing so it will fasten its long nose on to its tail to sustain life during its long sleep. At this time it is much sought after by the natives, who eat it as food. It is a most prolific animal, and as many as 31 young ones have been known to be brought forth at a birth.

A personal of my recent notes will show that I have had sent me several interesting specimens, and I hereby return thanks to my many readers, who have so kindly forwarded them, but at the same time I should like to say a few words (which I hope will not be resented) about the packing of them. Many of the specimens, although sent off alive, have reached me dead, and in some cases, squashed beyond all recognition, whilst others have been sent off after being kept for several days after death, and have arrived in an almost putrid state. Stronger boxes (tin for preference) in the former case, and a speedy despatch, as soon as death occurs in the latter, would ensure more trustworthy information being given on the objects sent, and would also obviate the necessity of opening some of the packages near, and disposing of in, the dust-hole.

THE ACTOR.

I note that the text of Mr. Haddon Chambers's play, "The Awakening," and of Captain Marshall's piece, "The Second in Command," is about to be issued to the public in volume form. As there has been a great deal of talk about the play, I thought I would give the example in the present generation, and it has been followed notably by Mr. Pinner, Mr. Arthur Jones, Mr. G. Bernard Shaw, Mr. Stephen Phillips, and so forth. Even Mr. Cartan has made a beginning with "Liberty Hall," and Mr. H. V. Emmond with "One Summer's Day." Many, of course, have published their plays separately through the agency of Mr. French.

There are those who fancy that the publishing of the text of plays is quite a new thing. It is, of course, as old as the hills, and it has been done by Elizabethan and early Caroline days. It was almost a matter of rule with English playwrights in the eighteenth century. It was, indeed, a source of emolument to which every dramatist looked forward. A playwright's gains from the representation of his work were then comparatively small, and he looked to publication to recover some of his losses. Theatrical history is full of cases in which a play "did" better with the bookshelves than with the managers.

Some people, apparently, have been quite shocked at the idea that Mr. Stephen Phillips should condescend to the subjects of David and Bathsheba and of Mordecai and Esther. It so happens that in both cases Mr. Phillips has been anticipated. George Peele wrote a play on David and Bathsheba somewhere towards the end of the 16th century. A drama of which Esther was the heroine was produced at the Pavilion Theatre, London, in 1835, among the other characters being Vashti, Mordecai, Haman, and Ahasuerus. The piece was called "Esther, the Royal Jewess, or the Death of Haman," and perhaps it would not now be licensed. Who knows?

"The Undercurrent," at the Criterion, having been compressed, now presents an excellent opportunity for a dramatic author whose strength lies largely in his dialogue to know when it is time to leave off. The temptation to let the characters indulge freely in bright, smart talk must be very strong, and proportionately difficult to resist. In "The Undercurrent," as originally set forth, there was more dialogue than the structure could safely bear, and so Mr. Cartan at once set to work with the blue pencil, and with the best results. The experience, no doubt, will not be lost upon him. He will take the hint.

It is announced that, under the new management of the Princess's, "popular prices" will reign. That is to say, the stalls will be 6s. instead of 10s., and the other seats will be priced in proportion. I hope the arrangement will succeed. Why should a stall at a West End theatre invariably cost half-a-sovereign? Because the managers are afraid of losing prestige, if they lower their prices. It is society's right to its own seats, and does not grumble, and it is on "Society" that so many managements rely for support.

"Melnotte" is the title of a forthcoming comic opera, founded upon the story of "The Lady of Lyons." It will be interesting to note the spirit in which the librettist has performed his task. Has he preserved the romantic element in the play, or has he turned the whole work into ridicule? The best existing skit on Bulwer's work is that which Mr. Herman Merivale wrote, and in which Miss Nelly Farren appeared. The prose, dialogue, and the interpolated lyrics were alike richly funny.

MR. WHEELER.

It has been frequently said that the public interest in cycle racing has completely vanished, but the number of spectators present at the Crystal Palace last Saturday should prove that there is still a good "gate" to be got for a good meeting. It was the multiplicity of mediocre gatherings that caused the public to grow weary. Certainly, Saturday's programme was about as good as it could be, and the racing excellent throughout, although interest chiefly centred in the match of Polytechnic versus the Rest of England, which, as is well known, resulted in a very easy victory for the Polytechnic Club, which is undoubtedly the premier racing organisation of England, a position it has held for a considerable number of years, although, in days gone by, it had a formidable rival in the Catford C.C.

There is some talk of the revival of the old idea of allowing amateurs and professionals to race against each other without the amateur forfeiting his amateur status. Should this come to pass, there would undoubtedly be a considerable increase in interest in cycle racing, but I fear the complications which would arise with other sports governing bodies will lead to the abandonment of the scheme if it is brought forward again. It was fear of these complications which led to the idea being thrown out when it was

brought forward some four or five years ago.

Those of my readers who have not yet taken their holidays, and who are in want of a good place as a seaside headquarters, might do far worse than pay a visit to the little town of Ramsgate. The roads in the vicinity of this place are super-excellent for cycling, and the points of interest numerous. Goodwood, Arundel, Putworth, and Chichester are all near at hand, and give a variety of scenery which is charming. I know of nothing finer in its way than Arundel Park, now that the autumnal tints are beginning to show themselves upon the trees. Ramsgate is a delightful place, and at this time of the year is quite reasonable in its charges for accommodation, although it can hardly be called a cheap place during its season, which is from the commencement of August to the middle of September.

If our governing bodies are in want of something to do, which would be of infinite benefit to cyclists living in London, they might turn their attention to considering whether anything could be done to compel the empty coal carts to pass through the streets otherwise than in close order. Why these carts deem it necessary to return home with the nose of the horse in the rear cart, and the tailboard of the cart in front I do not know, but this is the way they always elect to return to their yards. It is no uncommon sight to see three, or even four, coal carts following one another so closely as to present a complete barrier to any cyclist who may be emerging from a side street. It is urgent to have instructions to see that they do not follow each other at a less distance than, say, 20 yards, so that cyclists who want to cross the line of traffic could do so with comfort. As they now travel they constitute one of the greatest dangers of the London streets, and there is really no adequate reason why they should do so.

There seems likely to be a slight revival in the game of bicycle polo, which is a most interesting game to witness. Ireland, which is practically the home of the sport has challenged England to send a team against it, and the Northampton Cycle Polo Club has accepted the challenge, and is arranging a team to represent England in the International match.

The cycle trailer, which I was one of the first to draw attention to, has fairly caught on, and may be seen in use daily in all parts of the country. I am told that it has been in great request at seaside resorts for fathers to take their families for airings. There is a fresh source of income to agents in getting one or two of these trailers for letting on hire.

It is astonishing the distances that a bicycle will run without propulsion, and the various free-wheel contests which have been held in various parts of the country have been interesting and demonstrating this. Last week in Birmingham, 8 Holloway succeeded in covering the extraordinary distance of 1,075 yards without pedalling, which constitutes a record, the previous biggest distance being 905 yards. Of course both these performances were done on a cement racing track, and the riders were experts capable of taking advantage of every cog and using the banking wherever practicable.

MADAME.

A Winter Dressing Gown is what we shall shortly require. An admirable style is the long, loose, comfortable wrapper, which may be carried out in quilted silk, flannel, or any other suitable material. A plain material would look well, pale pink, pale blue, or for more serviceable wear a rich crimson or a relieved with velvet of quilted silk of a corresponding colour. A thick knitted silk cord as girdle looks very well. A plaid design if cut on the cross looks well, or a flowered design may be chosen. Our model is trimmed with broad machine-stitched bands buttoned down.



A WINTER DRESSING GOWN.

Fluffy and furry materials are the rage this season, not only for dresses, but for millinery. I am not at all sure that I advise the idea, but I must chronicle the latest novelties. Of course, there is a cosy look of warmth about long-haired materials which we may appreciate when the weather grows colder, but just now we are enjoying the last bright days of autumn, and they seem a little clumsy.

New fashions appear in a sudden and mysterious way when we least expect them, and within the last week we have had quite a blaze of blue, vivid royal azure blues. I suppose we have a hunger for colours after our long fast, and blue of this shade is irresistible to blondes and very becoming to brunettes.

I saw a blue costume amongst the many which struck me as very smart. It was built of fine satin-faced blue cloth, and the up-to-date skirt had a plain front breadth and a deep-shaped bounce starting from either side of the front breadth. The corded bodice opened over a chemise of white, the long sleeves were slightly bell-shaped, and the skirt was trimmed with blue satin and lace. A very smart soft felt toque of royal blue was worn with this frock. It was trimmed with a large bow of blue velvet and a sheaf of shaded coral velvet geraniums, and the last triumphant note of blue was a chemise-spotted blue veil, under

whose meshes the fair hair of the wearer glistened like gold.



THE THREE-QUARTER COAT.

The Three-Quarter Coat will be popular this winter, and a good example of it is given in our illustration. It is made in dark leather coloured frieze, with revers and gusseted cuffs of purple or black velvet, three rows of similar velvet trim the skirt, and the pockets to the coat are piped with the same. The coat fastens across the chest in a double row of buttons, with three large buttons covered with velvet. The skirt is cut to a convenient walking length to just clear the heels, and the fullness is arranged to meet at the back in two inverted pleats.

I hear from Paris that coloured veils are to be worn, but they must be carefully chosen to match the complexion, also they are absolutely ugly. Fair women with rosy skins can wear blue, golden brown, or mauve veils. Dark women look best in red or ivory white. We will be less patchy in our dress than of yore if the dictates of Fashion are carried out, as the hat and coat will match the costume.

Some of the new toques are of raspberry red or powder blue material, covered over with a thick long-haired "buff." They are somewhat of the Tam O' Shanter style, and have a quill driven through the front. Cloth toques are cut in stripes with velvet ribbons passed in and out through the cloth or felt, and many of the large velvet picture hats in black or colours are trimmed with very full white ostrich plumes. With a whole blue or ruby costume a hat of the same colour looks well with a made feather of metallic plumage.

A dainty house or tea jacket is far more useful to active women than a tea gown, which I have always looked upon as a garment for millions. Corduroy velveteens are much used for this purpose in different shades of purple, lilac, old rose, or red. The newest corduroys are "splashed" with irregular spots of white, which give a pretty and complete effect.

The most sensible form of dinner jacket is cut tight-fitting at the back and semi-fitting in front. The trimming is easily accomplished, as plenty of lace frills are used, but an excellent plan is to have two handsome washing fitches and drape them on the jacket. The sleeves may be made in bell or coat shape, with large revers and frills of lace. The fitches are of washing silk or fine dralon material, trimmed with full frills of lace. For a more stylish jacket plain velveteen, with revers of cream satin, thickened with cream guipure insertion.

PATTERN ORDER FORM.

Send orders to "People" Office, and mark envelope "Madame."

Prescription: 1. Neck, round 2. Waist, in 3. Bust, in 4. Length, in 5. Sleeve, in 6. Cuff, in 7. Back length, in 8. Front length, in 9. Arm, under 10. Arm, above 11. To waistline 12. To knee 13. To ankle 14. To heel 15. To toe 16. To sole 17. To heel 18. To toe 19. To sole 20. To heel 21. To toe 22. To sole 23. To heel 24. To toe 25. To sole 26. To heel 27. To toe 28. To sole 29. To heel 30. To toe 31. To sole 32. To heel 33. To toe 34. To sole 35. To heel 36. To toe 37. To sole 38. To heel 39. To toe 40. To sole 41. To heel 42. To toe 43. To sole 44. To heel 45. To toe 46. To sole 47. To heel 48. To toe 49. To sole 50. To heel 51. To toe 52. To sole 53. To heel 54. To toe 55. To sole 56. To heel 57. To toe 58. To sole 59. To heel 60. To toe 61. To sole 62. To heel 63. To toe 64. To sole 65. To heel 66. To toe 67. To sole 68. To heel 69. To toe 70. To sole 71. To heel 72. To toe 73. To sole 74. To heel 75. To toe 76. To sole 77. To heel 78. To toe 79. To sole 80. To heel 81. To toe 82. To sole 83. To heel 84. To toe 85. To sole 86. To heel 87. To toe 88. To sole 89. To heel 90. To toe 91. To sole 92. To heel 93. To toe 94. To sole 95. To heel 96. To toe 97. To sole 98. To heel 99. To toe 100. To sole 101. To heel 102. To toe 103. To sole 104. To heel 105. To toe 106. To sole 107. To heel 108. To toe 109. To sole 110. To heel 111. To toe 112. To sole 113. To heel 114. To toe 115. To sole 116. To heel 117. To toe 118. To sole 119. To heel 120. To toe 121. To sole 122. To heel 123. To toe 124. To sole 125. To heel 126. To toe 127. To sole 128. To heel 129. To toe 130. To sole 131. To heel 132. To toe 133. To sole 134. To heel 135. To toe 136. To sole 137. To heel 138. To toe 139. To sole 140. To heel 141. To toe 142. To sole 14

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REVIEW.
Betheny, Sept. 21.—The Imperial train arrived at the Frenois Station, near the review ground, at 9.55. Forthwith the artillery began its salute of 21 guns, and the Russian Standard was hoisted at the Imperial pavilion. All that was visible of the grandstands constituted the fourth and last floating in the air above this rectangular space was a military balloon, from which depended long streamers of the Russian and French colours. The Imperial procession was composed of a long line of carriages with brilliant harness, and several conspicuous among a magnificently attired troop of Arab chiefs, which formed the Czar's special guard. The Czar made a special inspection of the marines and troops lately home from China.—Reuter.

A SPEECH OF FAREWELL.
At the banquet succeeding the review, the Czar spoke as follows:—"At the moment of leaving France, where I have again received so cordial and so warm a welcome, I desire to express to you our sincere gratitude. The ties which unite our countries have just been again affirmed, and have received fresh confirmation in the expectation of mutual prosperity, which have been so eloquently made here and have found so fully an echo in Russia."—Reuter.

DEPARTURE FROM FRANCE.
Betheny, Sept. 21.—The Czar and Czarina left Frenois Station on their departure from France this afternoon. They will cross the frontier at Pégny-sur-Moselle, Pres. Loubet and Mdmé. Loubet will accompany them to Frenois later from Paris. The adieu was of the most cordial character.—Reuter.

GIFTS BY THE CZAR.
Before leaving France the Czar requested M. Waldeck-Rousseau to hand over on his behalf 100,000 francs for distribution in charity in Paris, 15,000 francs for Dunkirk, Compiègne and Rheims, and 5,000 francs for the relief of the distress caused by the powder factory explosion at Ripault, near Tours.—Reuter.

THE ARRIVAL AT KIEL.
Berlin, Sept. 21.—The Czar and Czarina are timed to arrive to-morrow afternoon at Kiel, and will, after some days stay there, returning to Russia on the 28th. The Emperor and Empress-Kaiser have sent a life-size painting of himself to be placed in the saloon of the Standart.—Central News.

PARIS ANGRY.
The disappointment of Paris is now complete, all hope of a visit from the Czar is ended. All yesterday crowds filled the streets expecting the Czar to come, and the leading thoroughfares were profusely decorated.

THE NATIONALIST PRESS.
The morning attacks the Government for preventing, as they allege, the Czar from visiting Paris.—Exchange.

FRENCH MINISTERS RESIGN.
Paris, Sept. 21.—According to the "Débats," M. Millerand, Minister of Commerce, and M. Baudin, Minister of Public Works, have placed their resignations in the hands of M. Waldeck-Rousseau, who has accepted them. Gen. André, Minister of War, resigned, but subsequently withdrew his resignation. Disensions have existed among the Ministers for a considerable time, and matters were brought to a crisis on the question of the suggested visit of the Czar and Czarina to Paris.—Dailist.

WOMAN'S STRANGE DEATH.
Dr. Thomas held an inquest on Lily Elmer, 39, of Woodfield Circus, Wexhampton.—It appeared that deceased was the wife of a carpenter, and three months ago, had since been in a very deplorable condition. On Thursday she visited her cousin, Louisa Ford, at Sale-st., Edgeware-rd., to whom she had stated that owing to her extreme kindness to her and her husband during his illness, if anything happened to her she should reside with him. That night when the brother got home he found her very ill. Nothing of a suspicious character was found in the room but a letter to the following effect:—"Sept. 18, 1901.—My last wish is that Louisa Ford shall have all my home and all my money (pencilled), I leave it to her kindness shown me and my precious husband in our need. My friend indeed she has been to me. Lily Elmer."—Dr. Whittaker stated that death was due to syncope while suffering from heart disease and acute gastritis of the stomach, which had caused the severe vomiting.—Verdict accordingly.

WAS IT A CYCLING FATALITY?
Recently, George Tompkins, of Kentish Town, was killed while cycling to his home at Hemel Hempstead, met with a supposed cycle accident, which resulted fatally. Since the inquest county and London Police have further investigated the matter, with the result that on Friday evening Edward Matthews, of Mortimer-rd., Highgate, Rise, was arrested under a warrant for the murder of Tompkins at Hemel Hempstead. Matthews' arrest caused great excitement in the neighbourhood.—Prisoner was taken before Dr. Turner yesterday and charged with homicide.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL.
For over two months Charing Cross Hospital has been tenanted by patients, and the building has been given over to the builders, who have completed the first part of their work of new reconstruction. The work is now ready for the reception of sufferers. For present purposes the alteration is almost a self-contained arrangement; that is, it does not extend much beyond the original limit of space. But the change is great nevertheless, and both parts of the nursing and medical staff will be benefited. The basement, containing the kitchens, store-rooms, and other offices, has been entirely reconstructed. There was room for 100 patients before the exodus. To-day 155 beds are ready for their new occupants. But now the hospital authorities are anxiously looking for extension will be carried out in entirety. When the cave that was Toole's Theatre, as well as the sites of other properties acquired, are built upon, and the freshly-equipped and extended hospital will have been complete, about 2,000 will have been seen, but a large proportion of the work has, however, still to be raised.

The Mayor of Gravesend went aboard the Greek mail-boat "War Mias" yesterday, and named the office, and crew on this their first visit to England.

<p> Milwaukee Ord., 1834 Do. Prof., 1834 Chicago, Rock I., 1834 Cleveland, O., O. and St. Louis, 97 B. & W. </p>	<p> Do. Prof., 894 Union Pacific 1 Wabash, St. Lou Pacific C., 29 Wabash, St. Lou Pacific Road, </p>
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"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

In London, 2,442 births and 1,398 deaths were registered last week. The births were 211 and the deaths 78 below the average numbers in the corresponding weeks of the last 10 years. The annual death-rate per 1,000 from all causes further fell last week to 16.0.

The 1,398 deaths included 9 from small-pox, 13 from measles, and 184 from diarrhoea and dysentery.

Different forms of violence caused 48 deaths, concerning all of which requests were held.

Of these 48 deaths, 6 were cases of suicide, and 2 were attributed to accident or negligence.

In Greater London 3,628 births and 1,899 deaths were registered, corresponding to annual rates of 28.6 and 15.0 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

The deaths registered last week in 33 great towns of England and Wales corresponded to an annual rate of 18.3 per 1,000 of their aggregate population, which is estimated at 11,463,026 persons in the middle of this year.

France exports 450 million sardines, weighing in all 20,000 tons, and according to annual rates of 28.6 and 15.0 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

The average weight of salmon caught in the waters in 1901.

Germany has the record number of insane—108,000, against our 81,000.

A morning newspaper uses a million types in one edition, on an average.

England has suffered from 57 great famines in the last 900 years; Ireland from 34.

There were 198 telegraph stations in the United Kingdom in 1851. Now there are 6,000.

The fee for letters patent are, for a baronet, £100; an earl, £250; and for a duke, £250.

Ireland receives on an average a third more rain yearly, acre for acre, than the East of England.

145 million passengers travel yearly on the world's railroads. The average fare is 1s. 7d.

India grows 10,000,000 tons of rice yearly, and eats 15,700,000. All Europe eats only 21 million tons.

The largest artesian well in the world is 16in. in diameter and 654ft. deep. It is at Carleton, in California.

It costs, on an average, £1,000 to go to sea, and only one in five strikes oil.

The salt tax in France averages 4d. a head for the population, that of Italy 2s. 4d.

Hospital death-rates average 61 per cent. in Irish, 8 in English, and 91 in Scotch hospitals.

The biggest round tower in Ireland is at Kilmacduagh, 108ft. high. There are 43 of them in all.

The most fatal explosion ever known was at Gravelines in 1654. Three thousand people were killed.

The 3,449 miles of Trans-Siberian Railway have cost 21 millions, and will be needed.

In 1750 the average rental of British soil was 6s. an acre. It was 18s. in 1868, and has now dropped to an average of 15s.

An Englishman's drink allowance for a year is 271 gallons of beer, one gallon of spirits, and two-fifths of a gallon of wine.

The labourer in the year 1400 got 21s. a year; in 1500, 21 11s. a year. This increased to 44s. in 1700, and now averages £230.

Out of 1,713,000 men who took the field in the Franco-German War, 59,000 were killed, 47,000 died of wounds, and 37,000 of disease.

British tramways cost, on an average, £24,900 a mile to construct, carry 400 million persons yearly, and earn £3,300 per mile.

The cable between Dover and Calais, opened in 1850, was the first cable, marine cable. The next, laid in 1852, was from Holyhead to Dublin.

The worst epidemic of small-pox ever known was when the Brazilians lost 43,000 men, or 35 per cent. of their army, in the war against Paraguay.

Australia and England have about the same length of telegraph-wires; but Australia has 51 millions, and England only 42 millions.

The rental of Britain's 82,000 first-class mansions aggregates 14 millions, while the next 235,000 bring only 281 millions.

The four million tons of hay grown in the United Kingdom are worth 10 million pounds, while France's 14 million tons fetch only 32 million sterling.

Fifty-seven in 1,000 British people belong to the professional classes, 163 are servants, 87 work in shops, 124 on farms, and 563 are classed as industrial workers.

Switzerland, with 48 postal packets for each inhabitant, comes second to the United Kingdom, which has 49.

France and Belgium, with 36 each, hold third place.

At Cotta, in Saxony, persons who did not pay their taxes last year are published in a list which hangs up in all restaurants and saloons in the city.

Those that are on the list are neither met nor drink at these places under penalty of loss of license.

Philip Boynton, insurance agent, charged at Brentford with forging and uttering three cheques on the 27th ult., thereby defrauding three Liverpool tradesmen of a total amount of £1,225, was remanded, to be formally committed for trial.

A number of rich men in Vienna have formed a club, the chief object of which is to encourage marriages with poor girls. Any member who marries a wealthy lady will have to pay 21,000 to the club. This money is to be presented to some needy couple engaged to be married.

The Archbishop of York has fixed St. Luke's Day, Oct. 18, for the consecration in York Minister of Dr. Handley C. O. Moulle as Bishop of Durham. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Bishop of Sheffield, and Canon Hookens as Suffragan-Bishop of

Leo XIII. has written a letter of encouragement to the president of the Franco-American Monument Committee, Cardinal Perotti, in which the following passage is contained: "It is just and meet that a noble monument should be erected in his native country to the great artist, the celestial suitor of whose paintings appears more like the work of angels than of man."

The French warships D'Entrecasteaux and Pascal, with Admiral Hayle, arrived at Wellington on Tuesday in response to an invitation from Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge. Every honour worthy of the ships which took so prominent a part in the recent crisis was shown the visitors, who have expressed themselves much gratified at the courtesy extended to them by the British Admiral.

A fine coal has been caught in a fisherman's net off Dover.

Our ordinance factories cost the country £204,000 a year.

Of 7,000 motor-cars in Europe, 5,000 belong to French owners.

An ocean steamer carries, on an average, 21 times her own tonnage in a year.

In the world there are 538 Protestant missionary societies, with 15,460 members.

9,000 men and 41,000 women are employed in lace-making in the United Kingdom.

The Norddeutsche Lloyd has resolved to establish a regular service between Bremerhaven and Cuba.

The United Kingdom has 142,000 miles of road, 18,000 of rail, and 5,000 of waterway.

Three per cent of the able-bodied men of the Christian world make their living at sea.

The 16,000 Indians in Ontario, Canada, own \$1,968,000 worth of property, or £123 a head.

News comes from Constantinople that the report of the accomplishment of the Khedivah is declared to be unfounded.

The agents of several British firms at Manila have been arrested by the Americans for alleged dealings with the Philippine insurgents.

Arabi Pasha and his family sailed on Tuesday from Colombo for Egypt. A large crowd gathered on the jetty to witness his departure.

No less than 133 tons of waste-paper were collected and sorted by the men in the Salvator Army's Metropolitan School last week.

The Mediterranean Fleet has returned to Malta after manoeuvres which are considered to have been successful.

Instructions have been given for his Majesty's new war ship Hindal to be ready by Sept. 27, and to commission for active service.

Col. Gillingwood, of the Army Ordnance Department, has been appointed Chief Ordnance Officer in the Salisbury Plain District.

At Kirkby Lathorpe (Lincolnshire) Industrial Exhibition, Mr. Wilmut, aged 102, secured the prize for needlework.

The international exhibition of appliances for protection against fire at Berlin has closed with a deficit of £20,000, of which £11,500 is covered by the guaranteed capital.

Truffles are plentiful in Burma. The Burmese call them "king-cool."

They grow on the roots of the khair tree, and are said to be as good as the truffles of Europe.

While digging under a house at Moscow some workmen found a vessel containing 1,044 silver coins of the reigns of the Czar Michael Feodorovich and Alexei Michailowitch.

The anti-English agitation in Malia has reached such a pitch that a local paper suggested that the Malites should be decapitated on the day of the King's Coronation.

General Booth has decided, before his departure for America, to open a home for imbecile men, licensed under the Inebriate Acts, at Thundersley, Essex.

The County Council of Lancashire has decided to make a special grant for the teaching of Chinese, in view of the large trade between the county and China.

Owing to the high wages paid at the Buffalo Exhibition many domestic servants have left their situations. Their places have been successfully filled by Chinese, each of whom does the work of two or three English girls.

According to the Vienna "Neue Freie Presse" Roumania and Greece will shortly conclude a defensive alliance, Russian aggression having driven them to take this step, which has the approval of Austria.

The Treasury has sanctioned the expenditure of £20,000 for miniature rifle ranges at various centres, which are to be erected according to the ideas of the generals commanding districts.

During the recent visit of two German men-of-war to Malta, a rifle competition took place between German teams and a team of Royal Engineers. The latter won by 256 points.

The Germans used the 183 Mannlicher rifle.

The salary of Turkish diplomatic officials abroad for June last have only just been paid, and that only in part. Payment has never fallen so long into arrears before, and the tendency of only half the sum due is unprecedented.

A terrible accident has occurred near the village of Ossi, in Croatia. A ferry-boat while crossing the River Kulpa, which was much swollen by floods, was carried away and driven on a water-mill. Of 25 persons on board only two were rescued.

A little inlet has disappeared. The French Government has given notice that the inlet marked on the chart in a position about six miles S.W. from the Beauséjour Islands (Loyalty Islands) in the South Pacific, has disappeared. No traces can be found of it.

Several engineers who have just completed an examination of Brooklyn Bridge report that there is only a narrow margin of safety, and that unless extensive repairs are undertaken at once a frightful accident may result.

It is said that the new gun which is to be supplied to the batteries of the Royal Horse Artillery will be a light wire one, with a new carriage, and will have a longer "life" than the old one. The construction of artillery ranges is to be proceeded with, and by next year some excellent practice grounds will be available.

The unrest among the French troops is increasing. Following on the serious mutiny in the 34th Regiment on Tuesday three down their heavy haversacks and refused to march further. The previous day 250 men feigned illness and would not perform their duties.

Gun tests have been made on the new Russian battleship Retvizan at New York by Russian gunners. The builders expressed themselves most pleased with the results. Much time, however, was wasted owing to the participation of the Russians, who went to remove parts of the ship's armament that was fired. Live rabbits which were placed on the gun turrets were not hurt by the concussion.

The Agent General for New South Wales has received this week from Mr. J. H. Newman, a well-known Sydney photographer, a handsome picture of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall, which his Majesty King Edward will be asked to accept. The photographer thus honoured by their Royal Highnesses, photographed the "sailor prince," the late Duke of Clarence and the Duke of Cornwall, when they were in Australia in 1891.

Russia is opening new savings banks at the rate of 600 a year.

Chinese savings are sometimes stored by sea.

Our herring take is 300,000 tons a year, and is worth £3,000,000.

Unvaccinated persons are not allowed to vote at elections in Norway.

Arrive in blocks weighing about 100 lb. apiece.

Australia sells 4,782,000 acres of Crown lands yearly.

There are 21,000 druggists in England, and 23,000 coach-makers.

It is said that out of every 100 lives insured in England only five are women.

Only one passenger is killed in 6,947,131 railway journeys, and only one in 658,402 is injured.

Great Britain's wealth increases about £450,000 every day—that is, 3d. a head a day.

The prices of medical prescriptions in Russia are regulated by the Government.

According to scientists, not a single microbe exists in mountain air above the height of 2,000 feet.

Saturn's largest moon is 2,002 miles in diameter, slightly smaller than our own.

Only 12 per cent. of those condemned to death in France are eventually executed.

French people eat on an average 103 eggs a year, English 85, Italians only 48.

132 books have taken their titles from Shakespeare's works, 40 of them from Hamlet.

Scotland's population is 15,411 greater than that of Ireland. She is also nearly twice as rich.

An average passenger locomotive burns 120 gallons of oil yearly to keep it in running order.

In 1663 the British postal revenue amounted to 1d. per inhabitant, it is now 63 pence a head.

The United States grows 210,000 tons of tobacco yearly. India is a good second, with 170,000 tons.

In 1851 only 13 per cent. of British houses were liable to house duty. Now the average is 20 per cent.

A searchlight on the electric tower of the Pan-American Exhibition at Buffalo casts rays for a distance of 36 miles.

Golden and diamond weddings were celebrated by 614 couples in Prussia last year, and the State contributed medals to each husband and wife.

In the past 40 years Great Britain has produced 40 million tons of steel, about a third of the world's total production.

London's daily and weekly papers are 20 per cent. more in number than those of Scotland and Ireland combined.

Mr. J. A. Woods, a well-known North of England banker, died this week. Deceased, who was 86, was the head of the firm of Woods and Co., Newcastle.

The death occurred at Banquet, on Sunday, of Mr. J. A. Richards, a Welsh musical composer of note. He was 58, and was a voluminous hymn, anthem, and glee writer.

Naples is to have sea baths capable of accommodating 40,000 persons. They are to be supplied with hot and cold water, so that they may be enjoyed at all times of the year.

An Newport Wm. Gough, a coal trimmer, was knocked from a ladder by a crane while crossing from a steamer to the dock quay. He fell into the water and was drowned before assistance could be rendered.

Most of the world's supply of furs comes from the Russian Empire. The hunters of Russia and Siberia annually capture 3,000,000 ermines, 16,000,000 marmots, and 25,000,000 squirrels.

All natural waters contain a greater or less amount of mineral matter in solution. Rain water has the smallest percentage of solid impurities of any, and therefore it is taken as the standard of pure water.

There are said to be over 100 varieties of date-palm, all distinguished by their fruit, and the Arabs say that "a good housewife may furnish her husband every day for a month with a dish of dates differently prepared."

CLEARING A CRIME AREA.

The work of clearing away a number of the notorious slums and courts of the Borough was commenced this week. The clearance is in connection with the L.C.C.'s scheme for cutting a road behind St. George's Church in continuation of Talard-st., and then across to Southwark Bridge-rd. The district has long been associated with the darkest chapters of London's criminal history, and one alley alone, Redcross-st., has seen the scene of dozens of murders and innumerable minor crimes during last century.

LAST OF AN HISTORIC HOUSE.

The site of Wimbledon Park House, which has a history dating back to before the Domesday survey, is said to be sold by auction as land "naturally disposed for profitable building development." The house has been rebuilt more than once, and most of its tenants have borne names which are bound up with English history. Among those who visited the place were Queen Elizabeth, James I., Charles I., and Queen Victoria. The last time the site was guest of the Duke of Somerset in 1838.

THE JOHN BROWN MEMORIAL AT BALMORAL.

Among the many changes that are taking place at Balmoral Castle in view of the coming visit of the King is the disappearance of cairns and all reminders of the late John Brown. Only the stone in the churchyard of Craithie remains to keep the memory of the Queen's faithful retainer at Balmoral alive. Of course John was not so great a favourite with all the members of the Royal Family as he was with her Majesty, and nobody is surprised that in the new "brooming" operations the John Brown memorial should have been relegated to obscurity.

FOR LONDON CONVALESCENTS.

The trustees of the Frank James Memorial Home for Seamen at East Cowes, Isle of Wight, have offered the house to the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund for London, on the understanding that the Fund will choose a London hospital requiring a convalescent home for its patients. As the home was originally intended for the benefit of aged seamen, a hospital for sailors is, if possible, to be chosen. In addition to this offer by the trustees, Messrs. Arthur and William James have generously undertaken to endow the home to the extent of £10,000. The institution is to be called the "Frank James Memorial Home." The offer cannot take effect until the termination of the war, as the home is now at the disposal of the War Office for convalescent soldiers from South Africa.

CHARGE OF ATTEMPTED MURDER.

At Preston, yesterday, Joseph Blunich, a Swiss, was charged with burglariously entering the Park Hotel, Preston, on the 14th inst., and attempting to murder Jno. Boyle, the night porter, whom it is alleged he struck on the head with a cleaver, as reported last week. The prisoner was found hiding in the grounds, and he too was suffering from wounds on the head. As Boyle was still in the infirmary, charged with the injuries, a remand was granted. The prisoner, whose head was swathed in bandages, had to be assisted into the dock. It was stated by the prosecuting solicitor that the prisoner had been employed as a cook at the hotel.

PLUCKY BLUEJACKET.

We here give a portrait of Wm. Hunter, of H.M.S. Rambler, who recently performed a gallant deed, which entitled him to a plume in the eyes of his fellow-seamen. He was walking along Ramsgate Pier, when he saw a man a few feet from the water. Our hero vaulted over the pier, and was instrumental in saving Mr. Moody and his two sons, who were being carried out to sea by the tide. Hunter had previously distinguished his gallantry at Portland, for which he was awarded a silver watch. For his pluck we have pleasure in adding the name of Wm. Hunter to the honoured roll of "The People's" heroes.

WIFE'S STRANGE STORY.

ACCUSES HER HUSBAND OF STEALING JEWELLERY.

A remarkable story was related by a woman against her husband in W. London. Two well-dressed men, described as architects, named Ed. Cockes, alias Edmund Loxey, and Harold Marsh, alias Marshall and Marment, were charged with stealing and receiving four gold rings, two gold brooches, and other articles valued at £25, the property of Harriet Emma Loxey. Prisoners are undergoing a term of three months' imprisonment for a jewellery robbery near Ashford, Kent, and they were brought up under an order of the Home Secretary.

PROSECUTOR'S OVERSIGHT.

Prosecutor said she was married to a painter, and at St. Leonard's Church, Hove, on June 22 last. She knew him only a month or two before the wedding. Thereafter they lived together a fortnight in a house in Finborough-rd., 8, Kensington. She knew Marsh by the name of Warren. He was a friend of her husband, and visited them while he was in the hospital. Her husband represented that he was employed at the War Office in sending out remounts to S. Africa, earning something like £500 a year. At the Grosvenor Hotel their boxes were detained for payment of a bill amounting to £40. Then her husband left her.

A fortnight afterwards she met him, and he said he could not join her at Finborough-rd., as the detectives were after him. She gave him the key of the wardrobe, so that he might get some light clothing, but though she awaited him he did not return. On going home she missed the property mentioned, as well as a note in the wardrobe, which he had left in a bank at Hove. It was stated that when the prisoners were arrested at Folkestone on the other charge pawnbrokers' tickets for some of the jewellery and also two of the cheques were found in their possession. Charges of uttering will be preferred against them in respect of the cheques that have been passed.—Remanded.

AMONGST THE HOPPERS.

FAIRFIELD FAIR.

The Kentish hop-picking season is not almost concluded from the pickers' point of view it has proved a most successful one, for hundreds of London families will return home in the course of a few days with some pounds to their credit. A festival known as "Fairleigh Fair" will be celebrated to-day, and this Cockney feast on the picturesque banks of the Medway is likely to be patronised by many of the hoppers' friends in London. East and West Fairleigh, two pretty little villages a few miles from Maidstone, are in the centre of the most important hop-growing districts in Kent, the gardens extending for miles on the slopes on either side of the Medway. Thousands of hoppers are here employed, and the majority of them are from Kent and South London. On the last Sunday of the hopping season the hoppers don their holiday attire, and the whole day is given up to enjoyment. Stalls for the sale of every little luxury that delight the average Londoner's heart are arranged along the country lanes, and the mouth-watering delicacies of Sunday and the day are usually one succession of wild enjoyments. The Fairleigh "Bull," the principal hostelry of the district, on this day never opens its doors, but during the legal hours of refreshment in the shape of pots of beer, is supplied from a small window closely resembling the one of a public house. The "bath" is a great feature of the day, and in the morning hundreds of swimmers can be seen disporting themselves in the Medway, no restrictions being made with regard to "mixed" bathing.

TRAGIC PLEASURE TRIP.

Mr. T. J. Jenson, a Larven tradesman, died in Skipton Cottage Hospital yesterday. He cycled from Darwen to Malham Turlay, near Salisbury, and then set out to explore Gordale Scar. He was not seen again for 24 hours, when a Heckmondwike visitor to the famous cliffs found him lying unconscious at the bottom in a dreadfully mutilated condition. He had evidently slipped while walking at the foot of the cliff, and had been thrown from rock to rock in his descent. He was removed to hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries.

ELECTRIC LIGHT AT WORTHING.

The Marquis of Abernethy, Lord Lieutenant of Sussex, yesterday formally inaugurated the system of electric lighting at Worthing, which has been carried out by the corporation at a cost of more than £30,000. After the opening ceremony at the general station his lordship was entertained to luncheon at the Town Hall, the Mayors of Brighton, Eastbourne, and other municipalities being among the guests.

A SERIOUS CHARGE.

At Brecon, yesterday, Hy. Todor, alias Thos. Fisher, who had previously been committed for trial on a charge of housebreaking in Herefordshire, was, by order of the Home Secretary, charged with the murder of Miss Margaret Williams, a lady cyclist, on the highway near Brecon.—Prosecutor identified accused as her assailant, and he was committed for trial.

THE MARQUIS'S JEWELS.

NO TRACE OF THE MISSING PROPERTY.

The small court at Marlborough-st. was filled this week, when Julian Gault, the Marquis of Anglesey's French valet, aged 23, entered the dock to further answer the charge of stealing from the Walsingham House Hotel, Piccadilly, on Sept. 10, 40 earrings, 48 gold rings, 40 watches, and other valuable articles of jewellery, representing in all a sum of £22,000, belonging to the Marquis. At the previous hearing only formal evidence of arrest was given.

Det.-Insp. Drew said he received a warrant for the arrest of prisoner on Sept. 11, and on the following night the warrant was executed at Dover. Prisoner was brought to London by special train, and on the warrant being read to him through an interpreter at West-st. Station, he merely replied "Oui." On being asked the property stolen, he said he did not know it. He was arrested while getting on board the Ostend boat at Dover, and was brought up last Friday (Friday). Mr. Muskett had ample evidence to show the guilt of prisoner, but that was hardly the point.

None of the jewels had been traced, and Insp. Drew suggested that it might be in the interest of public justice if the case were further remanded for a week or so, when he would be prepared to offer evidence.—Mr. Plowden said he understood that the adjournment was asked for with the hope of tracing the jewels.—Mr. Muskett said that was so.—Prisoner said he had no objection to the remand.—He was thereupon remanded.

HEROES DECORATED.

VICTORY CROSS FOR ACTS OF SPLENDID BRAVERY.

The coveted honour of the Victoria Cross is to be bestowed, states "The London Gazette," on Lieut. F. B. Dugdale, of the 3rd Lancers, and Sergt. W. B. Traynor, 2nd Battalion of the Buffs (Rifles), both of the Buffs (Rifles) for their conspicuous gallantry in Africa. Lieut. Dugdale, on March 3, 1901, was in charge of a small outpost near Derby, and having been ordered to retire, his patrol came under a heavy fire at a range of about 250 yards. A sergeant, two men, and a horse were hit. Lieut. Dugdale thereupon ordered the men on his own horse. He then caught another horse, galloped up to a wounded man and took him up behind, and brought both men safely out of action. Sergt. Traynor receives the decoration for his heroism during the night attack on Bothwell Camp on February 6, 1901, when he jumped over a trench and ran under a very heavy fire to the assistance of a wounded man. He was himself shot, and being unable to carry the man by himself called for assistance. Lance-corporal Lintott at once came to him, and between them they carried the wounded soldier into shelter. Although severely wounded, Sergt. Traynor remained in command of his men till the attack failed.

"The Gazette" further states that his Majesty has been pleased to award the Medal for Distinguished Conduct in the Field to the undermentioned soldiers, in recognition of their gallant conduct during recent operations in S. Africa:—1792 Corporal J. Shaw, 2nd Bn. Lincolnshire Regt.; 2383 Corporal W. T. Lintott, 2nd Bn. Buffs (Rifles); 287 Private Edmund Roney, 5th Queensland Imperial Bushmen.

MAY YOH'S MARRIAGE.

SUIT FOR DIVORCE BY LORD FRANCIS HOPE.

The rumours and probabilities of a divorce action by Lord Francis Hope against Lady Hope, formerly Miss May Yoh, were settled this week by an intimation that the necessary preliminaries have been commenced. Lord Francis Hope has instructed Messrs. Maddison, of 6, Old Jewry, to take action for him, and they have forwarded the necessary papers, and forwarded to Lady Hope's counsel in America the requisite documents. Mr. E. M. Friend, of New York, is acting in the interests of the actress, who it is said, has been waiting for her husband to commence the proceedings. She recently left New York in the Orient, being accompanied by Mr. Putnam B. Strong, son of the late Mayor of New York, who has declared that he will marry the actress when she is freed. The suit will probably be heard in New York, although the actual details are not yet settled. In America it is said that Lord Francis Hope's relatives are averse to the action. There may also be some difficulty about the Hope diamonds, a number of which the actress holds as security. Nothing is known as to

